

***Macbeth* Final Discussion Questions**

1. What is your impression of the ending of the play? Was it satisfactory for you, or were you disappointed? Why?
2. Consider how the following influenced Macbeth's actions in the play: the witches, Lady Macbeth, Macbeth's own ambitions.
3. How do the following motifs contribute to meaning in the play as a whole? *Blood, sleep, disease, clothing, drunkenness, light vs. dark, the natural world, concealment/hiding, appearance vs. reality, equivocation, the supernatural?*
4. Themes or messages are very important to Shakespeare's plays. Discuss fully the development of one major theme or message the play has for its audience.
5. The idea of deception—that is, things are not always as they seem—is presented in *Macbeth*. Using specific references, trace the theme of deception as it is presented in the play.
6. To what extent is Lady Macbeth responsible for Macbeth becoming king of Scotland? Use specific evidence from the play to support your answer.
8. One of the themes of *Macbeth* is that wrongdoing has serious consequences. Discuss this statement with careful reference to the play and to the decline of both Lady Macbeth and Macbeth.
9. The misfortunes that befall us are sometimes due to our own acts and sometimes due to fate or ill luck. By referring to *Macbeth*, explain the situation the character finds himself in and the extent to which the character is responsible.
10. By referring to Lady Macbeth's actions, thoughts and words and the things that are said about her, develop a character sketch of her.
11. One of the themes of *Macbeth* is that our actions have certain consequences, and that some of these consequences can be terrible and unexpected. Discuss this statement with reference to both *Macbeth* and Lady Macbeth.
12. *Macbeth* has not been a scoundrel all of his life. Instead he is a good man who has gone wrong. This is a real tragedy. Discuss this statement by focusing on *Macbeth*'s good qualities, some of which are used for the wrong purposes.
13. Shakespeare not only presents the actions of characters but also helps us to understand what motivates characters to act in the way that they do. Discuss the factors which motivate *Macbeth*'s own ambitions.

Adapted from content found at

<http://www.bard.org/images/eduimages/pdfs/MacbethSG.pdf>. Accessed 4.20.10.